GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2520
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017
Small Tea Growers
Datta Shri Sankar Prasad

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small tea growers in various States of the country at present, State-wise;
(b) whether the Government proposes to unveil a new notification/ guidelines for setting up mini and micro factories for small tea growers through the Tea Board of India;
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of these guidelines; and
(d) the details of various benefits/ assistance being provided by the Government to small tea growers including the measures to boost their tea cultivation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): The total number of small tea growers in various states of the country at present, State-wise is given in the following Table:

Name of state	No. of growers
Assam	69284
West Bengal	35140
Tamil Nadu	45125
Kerala	8414
Tripura	2813
Himachal Pradesh	5897
Others*	13775
Total	180448

* Other includes Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Bihar, Sikkim, Uttarakhand.

(b) & (c): The Central Government has already amended the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 vide notification S.O.21 dated 3.1.2017 thereby providing for establishment of Mini tea factories by small tea growers, association of small tea growers or a producer company which sources all the required tea leaves from their own plantation for manufacturing and have a capacity to produce not more than 500 Kgs. of made tea per day. The Mini Tea Factories are exempted from obtaining any registration/no objection certificate for manufacturing tea. Only, a Certificate will have to be obtained from the 'Certifying Authority' of the Tea Board for selling manufactured or hold stock of tea.

(d): In order to boost cultivation of tea by small tea growers, the Central Government through Tea Board provides financial assistance to the small tea growers for New Planting, Replanting, Rejuvenation pruning, Irrigation, Field mechanization, etc. During the period 2012-13 to 2016-17, a sum of Rs.14.82 Crs. has been spent for the benefit of small tea growers.

A separate Small Growers Directorate is operational in Dibrugarh, Assamto look after the developmental needs of the small tea growers by way of extending regular technical support/training, helping them to organize Self Help Groups (SHGs) and motivating them for establishing their own processing factories.

Government has set up District Level Price Monitoring Committees headed by the District Commissioner / District Magistrate to monitor the green leaf price paid by tea factories to the small tea growers.

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